

95th Division Drill Sergeant School

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Fort Sill, Okla. - The 95th Division (Institutional Training) Drill Sergeant School (DSS) continues to provide the 95th and the Army Reserve with a steady crop of freshly minted drill sergeants. Once 'on the trail' these highly motivated non commissioned officers have the arduous and highly rewarding mission of training and mentoring the Army's next generation of soldiers. Highly disciplined and trained drill sergeant continues to be instrumental to the Army's success.

"We are excited that you have volunteered," said Command Sgt. Maj. Perry L. Roberts, Graduation Ceremony Guest Speaker. "It didn't happen by luck it took a lot of responsibility and commitment."



As a drill sergeant, you are now an expert trainer – empowered to train young recruits. You are the first trainer in the Army that recruits come in contact with. You will be training active duty, Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers. We all wear the same uniform – on the left pocket it says 'U.S. Army'. Yes, an Army of One."

Perry spoke to the graduates about the future – the objective force soldier and transformation.

"Tell the Army's story of the 'Army of One'," he continued. "In 2002, 22 percent of our soldiers – your soldiers – have some college. The quality of our soldiers is higher than ever before. Set the standard and train to standard."

Well, the 95th Division Drill Sergeant School isn't satisfied with the status quo, either and continues to move forward in how it trains



future drill sergeants. The 95th recently partnered with the 104th Division Institutional Training (IT), to conduct a joint DSS. During the winter, resident phases are coordinated by the 95th DSS at Fort Sill, Okla. During the summer, the 104th serves as host at Camp Hunter Leggett, Calif.

"It really works well and it is getting better all the time," said Command Sergeant Major William Howard, DSS Commandant. "As the two Drill

Sergeant School's personnel have gotten to know each other better we have begun operating more as a single unit rather than two schools taking place at the same time."

Master Sgt. Gregg E. Hefner, Chief Instructor 104th DSS agrees. "The Divisions co-located their schools in January 2001. It has helped that the 95th drill sergeants know us better and we know them better, too," he said. "At first, I think most of the drill sergeants

were little apprehensive about the whole idea, but now they love it. It has worked really well.”



Fourteen 95th Division soldiers and nine 104th Division soldiers graduated from Class 02-02 and now wear the ‘hat’. Awardees from the 95th included: Staff Sgt. Travis L Nelson, 2nd Battalion 354th Regiment, 1st Brigade – Distinguished Honor Graduate; Sgt. Floyd Bibby, 2nd Battalion, 378th Regiment, 2nd Brigade – Honor Graduate; Sgt. Jose Mendez, 1st Battalion, 378th Regiment, 2nd Brigade – High PT Award. Mendez scored a perfect 300 on his Army Physical Fitness Test.

The graduating class also included: Corporal Adren Jackson, 1st Battalion, 354th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Sgt. Johnny West, 2nd Battalion 354th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Sgt. Monica Flores, 1st Battalion, 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Sgt. Trenn L. Cooper, 1st Battalion, 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Sgt. Paul Honesto, 2nd Battalion 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Sgt. Richard T. Wolfe, 2nd Battalion, 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Corp. Howard H. Pierce, 2nd Battalion, 355th Regiment, 1st Brigade; Corp. Lawrence B. McKenna, 2nd Battalion, 377th Regiment, 2nd Brigade; Staff Sgt. Shannon S. Rupp, 2nd Battalion, 377th Regiment, 2nd Brigade; Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Mulch, 3rd Battalion, 377th Regiment, 2nd Brigade; and Staff Sgt. Tyrronne J. Griffin, 9503rd Training Detachment (DSS), 6th Brigade.